

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are all the claims pending in the application. The Examiner rejects claims 1-6, 8-10, and 14-19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Taniguchi (US 6,094,216). The Examiner further rejects claims 7, 11, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Taniguchi. Claims 1-19 are objected to for various informalities.

Applicant appreciates the acknowledgment of foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119.

§ 102(b) Rejection

Claims 1-6, 8-10, and 14-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Taniguchi (US 6,094,216). "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). See, MPEP 2131.

Claims 1 and 12

The Examiner relies upon Taniguchi to teach a three-dimensional image display device comprising a display panel and a mask having transparent and convertible regions alternately aligned in a horizontal direction. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 12 to add the limitations of a portion of the convertible region having no parallax image becomes transparent and a portion of the convertible region having parallax images becomes opaque, and further adds the limitations of the lengths of a segment of the transparent region and convertible region, wherein the length of the convertible portion is dependent upon the number of parallax images. This amendment adds no new matter and finds support generally in paragraph [0027] of the specification.

Taniguchi does not teach the calculating the length of the convertible portion responsive to the number of parallax images, but instead teaches the calculation of the width of each slit based upon the distance to the display screen, the distance between a mask and the display, and

the distance between a viewer's eyes. See, e.g., Taniguchi, col. 12, lines 1-3 and Fig. 1. The number of parallax images does not affect Taniguchi's calculations.

For at least this reason, claims 1 and 12, as amended, are allowable over Taniguchi. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance in view of the amendments and remarks.

Claims 2-6, 8-11, and 14-19

Each dependent claim depends from a now allowable independent and is allowable for at least the same reasons as those described above. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections.

§ 103(a) Rejections

Claims 7, 11, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Taniguchi. To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met one of which is that the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations.¹

Claims 7, 11, and 13 are dependent claims and have the same limitations as their base claims (and any intervening claims), and for at least the reasons presented above, are also allowable. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections.

Objections:

The Examiner objected to claims 1-19, but provided specific comments for claims 1, 5-6, 11-15, 17, and 19. Claims 1, 5-6, 17 and 18 have been amended in response to the Examiner's objections. The amendments specifically address each of the Examiner's comments regarding each of these claims.

Regarding the term "predetermined number" in claims 10, 12, and 14-15, a three-dimensional image comprises a number of parallax images wherein a parallax image is an image

taken at a particular viewing angle, and each parallax image has a different viewing angle. The number of viewing angles may vary for each three-dimensional image, and the resolution of the three-dimensional image decreases as the number of viewing angles increase. Therefore a skilled artisan would establish the “predetermined number” as a trade off relating to picture quality. *See*, Application, paragraph [0034].

Regarding the Examiner’s comments that claims 11 and 13 fail to teach controlling the distance between the display and the mask, Applicant asserts that controlling the distance is well known in the art. For example, Taniguchi also teaches controlling the distance by using “variable spacers 33, the spacer driving means 34, and the like constitute an interval control means.”² Taniguchi was filed in 1996, well before the filing date of this application, and demonstrates that a skilled artisan would know how to control the distance between the display and the mask.

For this reasons and in light of the amendments, Applicant asserts that the objections have been responded to, and that the objections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

¹ *See*, MPEP 2143.

² *See*, Taniguchi, col. 18, lines 29-36.

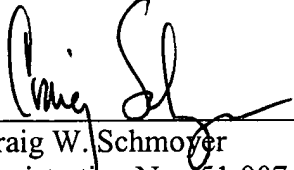
CONCLUSION

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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By: _____


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